

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-6 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claim 2 has been cancelled and claims 1, 5 and 6 have been amended. It is submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated May 4, 2007.

**Claim Objection**

In item 1 of the Action, claim 6 is objected to as including typographical error.

This objection is traversed. It is respectfully submitted that such errors have been corrected by the present Amendment.

**Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 - Unobviousness**

**Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto et al. (USP 7,177,523) in view of Saito et al. (USP 6,085,020), further in view of Okabayashi et al. (USP 6,751,399).**

This rejection is traversed. Claim 1 recites (a)“a timer for measuring an image reproducing period,” (b)“a first reproducer for reproducing one screen of still image signal from said recording medium every time that a time of said timer elapses,” (c)“a second reproducer for reproducing one screen of still image signal from said recording medium every time that an image renewal instruction is issued,” (d)“a restarter for restarting said timer every time that said one screen of still image signal is reproduced” and (e)“an issuer for issuing the image renewal instruction in response to the period changing instruction.” Also, independent claim 6 recites similar feature.

**As To Matsumoto et al. reference**

Although the Examiner asserts that Matsumoto et al. discloses the above claimed features (b), (d) and (e), it is respectfully submitted that Matsumoto et al. is silent regarding these claimed features.

The feature (b) recites “a first reproducer for reproducing one screen of still image signal from said recording medium **every time that a time of said timer elapses.**”

As admitted by the Examiner, Matsumoto et al. does not teach **a timer** for measuring an image reproducing period (see page 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, lines 1-2 of the Action). Therefore, even if, assuming *arguendo*, that Matsumoto et al. discloses a reproducer, Matsumoto et al. is completely silent regarding a first reproducer which reproduces one screen of still image signal **every time that a time of said timer elapses** since there is no disclosure regarding the timer.

Accordingly, Matsumoto et al. is silent regarding the claimed feature (b) “a first reproducer for reproducing one screen of still image signal from said recording medium **every time that a time of said timer elapses.**”

Next, the feature (d) recites “a restarter for **restarting said timer** every time that said one screen of still image signal is reproduced.”

As admitted by the Examiner, Matsumoto et al. does not teach **a timer** for measuring an image reproducing period (see page 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, lines 1-2 of the Action). Therefore, Matsumoto et al. is completely silent regarding a restarter which **restarts said timer** since there is no disclosure regarding the timer.

Accordingly, Matsumoto et al. is silent regarding the claimed feature (d) “a restarter for **restarting said timer** every time that said one screen of still image signal is reproduced.”

Next, the feature (e) recites “an issuer for **issuing the image renewal instruction in response to the period changing instruction.**”

As admitted by the Examiner, a reproduction switch 12 of Matsumoto et al. merely initiates reproduction process (see page 3, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, lines 8-11 of the Action). Specifically, if the reproduction switch 12 is depressed, the reproduction process shown in Fig. 2 is initiated (see column 4, lines 12-15 and 60-62).

Importantly, this disclosure merely teaches the initiation of the reproduction process and thus Matsumoto et al. is completely silent regarding an issuer which **issues the image renewal instruction in response to the period changing instruction.**

Accordingly, Matsumoto et al. is silent regarding the claimed feature (e) “an issuer for **issuing the image renewal instruction in response to the period changing instruction.**”

**As To Saito et al. reference**

Although the Examiner asserts that Saito et al. discloses the above claimed features (a) and (c), it is respectfully submitted that Saito et al. is silent regarding these claimed features.

The feature (a) recites “a timer for measuring an image reproducing period.”

With regard to the “timer”, the Examiner relies on the disclosure of Saito et al. regarding “edit decision list EDL” and “start point and end point” (see page 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, lines 2-4 of the Action).

However, the disclosures relied by the Examiner are completely different from the timer and the function of measuring an image reproducing period.

Specifically, Saito et al. relates to an apparatus for editing AV information (column 1, lines 14-15). To edit AV information, only necessary materials should be selected and recorded (column 1, lines 24-27). As clearly described in Saito et al., a play back start position and a play back end position are each treated as one unit of event information (column 1, lines 27-34). Such event information units are recorded in the EDL list (column 1, lines 53-54).

Therefore, the EDL list merely records a list of the play back start position and the play back end position and thus never be a timer which measures the period between the start position and the end position as asserted by the Examiner.

Accordingly, Saito et al. is completely silent and different from the claimed feature (a) “a timer for measuring an image reproducing period.”

Next, the claimed feature (c) recites “a second reproducer for reproducing one screen of still image signal from said recording medium **every time that an image renewal instruction is issued.**”

With regard to this feature, the Examiner merely points out that Saito et al. discloses HDD used for editing AV information (see page 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, lines 4-5 of the Action).

However, even if, assuming *arguendo*, that Saito et al. discloses a reproducer, Saito et al. is completely silent regarding a second reproducer which reproduces **one screen of still image signal every time that an image renewal instruction is issued.**

Accordingly, Matsumoto et al. is silent regarding the claimed feature (c) “a second reproducer for reproducing one screen of still image signal from said recording medium **every time that an image renewal instruction is issued.**”

In view of the above, it is submitted that even if, assuming *arguendo*, that Matsumoto et al. may be combined with Saito et al. in the manner suggested by the Examiner, such combination would still fail to disclose or fairly suggest the claimed feature of (a)“a timer for measuring an image reproducing period,” (b)“a first reproducer for reproducing one screen of still image signal from said recording medium every time that a time of said timer elapses,” (c)“a second reproducer for reproducing one screen of still image signal from said recording medium every time that an image renewal instruction is issued,” (d)“a restarter for restarting said timer every time that said one screen of still image signal is reproduced” and (e)“an issuer for issuing the image renewal instruction in response to the period changing instruction,” as called for in claim 1 and similarly in claim 6.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 6 are not obvious over Matsumoto et al. in view of Saito et al., further in view of Okabayashi et al.

Also, withdrawal of the Examiner's reliance on the primary reference of Matsumoto et al. is respectfully requested since Matsumoto et al. fails to disclose or fairly suggest the above claimed features.

Claims 3-5 are directly or indirectly dependent from claim 1 and recites the additional features set forth therein. Accordingly, claims 3-5 are not obvious over Matsumoto et al. in view of Saito et al., further in view of Okabayashi et al. for the reasons set forth above.

**Feature from claim 2**

In addition, claims 1 and 6 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2. Specifically, claim 1, now amended, recites "*said issuer stops issuing the image renewal instruction when the period changing instruction is for extending the image reproducing period.*" Also, claim 6 includes similar recitation.

With regard to this feature, the Examiner clearly acknowledges the drawbacks and deficiencies of Matsumoto et al., that is, Matsumoto et al. does not disclose "*when the period changing instruction is for extending the image reproducing period.*"

In an attempt to cure the above-noted drawbacks and deficiencies of Matsumoto et al., the Examiner relies on the teachings of Okabayashi et al., particularly the still picture table 31 (page 4, item 6 of the Action).

The still picture table 31 merely includes 10 levels of reproduction speed and corresponding counter comparison values (see Fig. 5B and column 6, lines 61-66).

Fig. 6 of Okabayashi et al. describes reproduction process using the still picture table 31. Importantly, in step 7, the process simply reads a counter comparison value corresponding to a designated still-picture reproduction speed from the still picture table 31 (see column 7, lines 24-31).

In other words, Okabayashi et al. simply sets a counter value corresponding to the designated level of the reproduction speed, and thus Okabayashi et al. is silent and unrelated to the determination “*if the period changing instruction is for extending the image reproducing period or not.*”



Response

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Therefore, even if, assuming *arguendo*, that Matsumoto et al. may be combined with Okabayashi et al. in the manner suggested by the Examiner, such combination merely presents a mechanism that simply sets a counter value corresponding to the designated level of the reproduction speed, and thus still fails to disclose or fairly suggest the claimed feature of “*said issuer stops issuing the image renewal instruction when the period changing instruction is for extending the image reproducing period,*” as now called for in amended claim 1 and similarly in amended claim 6.

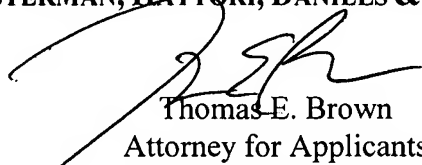
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In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,  
**WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TEB', is written over the printed name of Thomas E. Brown.

Thomas E. Brown  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 44,450  
Telephone: (202) 822-1100  
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

TEB/TN/ya